

Date Mailed  
November 16, 2001

BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Petition of Customers of the Bangor Exchange of GTE North  
Incorporated for Extended Area Service With the La Crosse/  
Onalaska Exchange of CenturyTel of Wisconsin, Inc. 2180-TV-127

Petition of Customers of the Bangor Exchange of GTE North  
Incorporated for Extended Area Service With the West Salem  
Exchange of CenturyTel of Wisconsin, Inc. 2180-TV-128

NOTICE OF HEARING

**Hearing Date:** Monday, November 26, 2001 – 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**Hearing Location:** Bangor Village Hall, 100 North 17th Ave., Bangor, WI

On December 16, 1999, customers of the Bangor exchange petitioned the Commission for extended area service to both the La Crosse and West Salem exchanges. At that time, the Bangor exchange was served by GTE North Incorporated, now Verizon North Inc. (Verizon). Verizon subsequently sold the Bangor exchange and other exchanges to CenturyTel of Central Wisconsin, LLC. CenturyTel of Wisconsin, LLC, serves La Crosse and West Salem.

The Commission has proceeded in accordance with the rules for extended area service, Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 167. In its Decision of July 18, 2001, the Commission set the rates for EAS and directed that the utilities mail ballots to customers to determine customer interest in the increased service at the approved rate increments, which were:

<b>Bangor Customers</b>	<b>For Calling to:</b>	
Service Classes	La Crosse	West Salem
Residential –Unlimited	\$16.62	\$3.35
Residential -Other	.87	.30
Business	1.50	.30

<b>West Salem Customers</b>	<b>For Calling to Bangor</b>
Residential	\$.50
Business	.86

Ballots were mailed in September and the deadline for postmarks of the returned ballots was October 10, 2001. The results of that balloting are:

Ballot of **Bangor** customers on willingness to pay higher rates for EAS to **La Crosse**:

Total ballots mailed	958	
Total returned by the deadline	398	42% return. 8 ballots were returned late.
Total YES votes	106	27% of ballots returned. (11% of ballots mailed.)
Total NO votes	288	72% of ballots returned. (30% of ballots mailed.)
Ballots with no vote shown	4	

Ballot of **Bangor** customers on willingness to pay higher rates for EAS to **West Salem**:

Total ballots mailed	958	
Total returned by the deadline	389	41% return. 7 ballots were returned late.
Total YES votes	107	28% of ballots returned. (11% of ballots mailed.)
Total NO votes	278	71% of ballots returned. (29% of ballots mailed.)
Ballots with no vote shown	4	

Ballot of **West Salem** customers on willingness to pay higher rates for EAS to **Bangor**:

Total ballots mailed	2,782	
Total returned by the deadline	1,186	43% return. 29 ballots were returned late.
Total YES votes	366	31% of ballots returned. (13% of ballots mailed.)
Total NO votes	812	68% of ballots returned. (29% of ballots mailed.)
Ballots with no vote shown	8	

Because the Legislature's Joint Committee for the Review of Administrative Rules has suspended Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.08(4), which limited instances in which a hearing could be granted, the next step in the process is a public hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to provide information on the adequacy of existing telephone service between the exchanges, the costs and benefits of the proposed service and the community of interest between the exchanges.

**NOTICE IS  
GIVEN**

that a hearing will be held on Monday, November 26, 2001, at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Bangor Village Hall, 100 North 17th Ave., Bangor, Wisconsin. This building is accessible to people in wheelchairs. Parking for people with disabilities is available. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

The CenturyTel of Central Wisconsin, LLC and CenturyTel of Wisconsin, LLC shall provide notification of this hearing to their Bangor, West Salem and La Crosse exchange

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customers. Notification may be provided by mail, as part of a regular billing, or by publication in a newspaper in general circulation in the area. The companies shall provide proof of notice at the hearing.

Any person desiring to become a party shall file a request pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(2m) and Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.32(3), no later than 14 days from the date of this notice. The request shall be addressed to Administrative Law Judge David C. Whitcomb, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854.

This is a Class 1 proceeding as defined in Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3)(a).

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to docket coordinator Tom Gross at (608) 267-2337.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

By the Commission:

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Lynda L. Dorr  
Secretary to the Commission

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